The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

VOL. 10. NO. 37. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1920. WHOLE NO. 505.

ANTI-UNION EMPLOYERS ARE QUACK PATRIOTS.

The anti-union employer now calls individual bargaining "the American plan."

These quack patriots commercialize the most holy ideal and brazenly call on the Shades of men who have lived a life of service to indorse cheap wages, child labor and denial of human rights.

The real patriot is unselfish; the quack would control the lives of others. One inspires; the other is visionless.

The quack's Americanism is lip service and big profits.

He favors free speech—but not for those who disagree with him.

He favors a free press—when it is silent on wrongs that are profitable to him.

He believes in the education of children—but would fill his factory with child labor.

He talks of freedom, but would feudalize America.

He glories in the progress of his country but plays no part in its social or intellectual development. To him, government is a thing for private use. It's only purpose is to grant special privilege and "keep labor in its place."

The counting room patriotism of these cheap wage employers cannot be fused with the Declaration of Independence.

Paternalism in the shop and voting-booth liberty is not democracy.

Freedom is not actual where individual bargaining exists. Patriotism is unreal 'midst industrial autocracy.

If patriotism and Americanism are to be exalted the terms may well be rescued from these men of sordid mind.

Citizen's alliances and kindred bodies should be called upon to cease trafficking in a nation's aspirations.

The youth of the land should not have their ideals debased by market place hagglers who bellow patriotism as they barter with unorganized, defenseless workers.

Men must live Americanism to be Americans.

The pretense of quack patriots should be hooted.

Employers Learn Nothing From England's History

"Employers have constantly predicted that ruin would come on the great industries of the country if workmen were better paid and better treated. They resisted and have resisted up to the present day, every demand which workmen have made for the right of association, for the limitation of women's and children's labor, for the shortening of hours, for the abolition of truck, for the protection of their workmen's lives and limbs from preventable accidents, and are now appealing to the doctrine of liberty of contract, after having for centuries denied the liberty."
—Thorold Rogers' "Work and Wages."

WILL SUPPORT U. S. BOARD.

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., Dec. 4.—The activities of the federal board for vocational education were indorsed at the recent convention of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union. In three resolutions the unionists pledged their support to the board.

The first resolution relates to the federal vocational education law of 1917, which provides funds for education in trades and industries, agriculture, commercial pursuits and home economics for persons over 14 years of age. The resolution instructs the union's board of directors to transmit to all locals full information regarding this law and urges organized labor to see to it that their respective state legislatures place the administration of the vocational education law under the present public school system so that no dual educational system be created.

The second resolution refers to the board's rehabilitation of disabled ex-service men as a "sound humanitarian and economical policy." It calls upon all unions to assist in the placement of rehabilitated ex-service men in such employment as they may be qualified for.

The third resolution relates to the vocational rehabilitation of persons disabled in industry. This law, passed by congress last June, is referred to by the unionists as a "distinct advance of incalculable moral, social and economic value, both to industry and to the workers engaged therein."

TEACHERS FAVOR UNIONISM.

New York, Dec. 4.—A resolution favoring organization among teachers was unanimously adopted at the first annual conference of the Teachers' unions of the eastern states, held in this city.

The committee on labor education urged that the need for schools devoted to labor education, controlled as to aim and policy by the workers, be pointed out to labor unions. The committee also urged the co-operation by Teachers' unions with trade unions to combat "the prejudices against labor and the misunderstandings concerning their aims and ideals."

The conference suggested that Teachers' unions aid any investigation of schools with a view to discovering weaknesses in processes and methods.

AUTO DRIVER BLAMED.

Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 4.—The state supreme court has ruled that an automobile driver can not be excused from injuring a pedestrian because the latter failed to cross a street at the point designated by city officials. The defense maintained that the pedestrian violated a city ordinance designed to suppress what is commonly termed "jay walking."

The court held that the driver of an automobile owes a duty to keep a lookout for pedestrians, not only at regular street crossings but between intersections as well.

WORKERS LOCKED OUT.

Sydney, Nova Scotia, Dec. 4.—The Dominion steel corporation has closed its mills because of an ultimatum of 125 railroad employes of the company, who have been asking for two years for the scale awarded all other railroaders in Canada, following the McAdoo award in the United States. The company replied by closing its mills and throwing 4,000 employes on the streets.

GARMENT PLANT IN LINE.

Boston, Dec. 4.—The Talbot company has signed an agreement with the United Garment Workers of America. This concern is one of the largest manufacturers of men's clothing in the country.

BAKERS ORGANIZE.

Muncie, Ind., Dec. 4.—Bakers in this city have organized and affiliated with the bona fide trade union movement.

FOOLING THE PUBLIC.

Chicago, Dec. 4.—In resisting the plan to label cloth, opponents are acting on the theory that they have a divine right to fool the public, says the national sheep and wool bureau of America.

This bureau is urging the adoption by congress of the French-Capper "truth-in-fabric" bill. It is designed to compel textile manufacturers to stamp their cloth with its content of virgin (new) wool and of wool substitutes, the chief of which is shoddy — old rags, reworked in some cases as often as eight times.

The measure seeks to apply to fabric production the principle underlying the pure food law and has been approved by manufacturers who have never sought to deceive the public by permitting their shoddy cloth to masquerade as virgin wool cloth under cover of the popularly misunderstood technical textile term "all wool."

There is no chemical test to prove the presence of wool shoddy in "all wool" cloth. Only the wearing tells the tale—and it tells the tale after the purchaser is fooled and the purchase price is paid.

"We insist," says the bureau, "that the reason that certain textile manufacturers wish to continue manufacturing "all wool" cloth out of unidentified shoddy is that they can make more money through the use of shoddy than through the use of virgin wool. If there was a compulsory labeling law, they'd have to ask the people a lower price for shoddy cloth, because the people would not pay virgin wool cloth prices for cloth that they actually knew was shoddy."

CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

Boston, Dec. 4.—The Massachusetts department of labor and industries reports that at the close of June, this year, the number of unemployed in this state, because of lack of orders, was the highest recorded at the close of any quarter since data of this character was first collected in 1908, with only two exceptions.

The June record showed that 45,560 workers were idle out of a total membership of 248,667 in 1,172 trade unions reporting. The idle constitute 18.2 per cent of the total reporting.

The highest record of unemployment because of lack of orders was 16.2 per cent at the close of March, 1908. December, 1914, has a record of 14.9 per cent unemployment.

The significant feature of the June record is that this condition existed when employers and the public press were crying for greater production and blaming high costs on the refusal of the workers to produce.

SCHOOLS ARE NEGLECTED.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 4.—More than a dozen schools in Allegheny county are closed for want of teachers and 200 more would be in the same condition but for a lowering of the standard of teachers' qualifications, says Samuel Hamilton, school superintendent. He says 400 teachers are not qualified and in many sections of the county the schools are overcrowded.

"It is amazing," says the Pittsburgh Post, "that in a community so patriotic and generous in other respects, even to donating for education in foreign lands, the people here have been quiet in the presence of conditions at home that are depriving children of their rights.

"If there is any statesmanship in Pennsylvania the situation of the schools today ought to bring it out."

URGES STATE COSSACKS.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 4.—Judge W. L. Huggins, chairman of the Kansas court of industrial relations, wants cossacks in this state.

He does not mention the term "state cossacks," but is addressing bankers in various sections of the state on the need "for a special police force that could be called upon in emergencies arising out of industrial disputes or other causes."

Trade unionists suggest that these are strange sentiments from one who insists that the court of industrial relations has made strikes impossible.

EXPORTS BREAK RECORD.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Export figures made public by the department of commerce indicate production possibilities of this country. In October these exports were valued at $752,000,000 against $605,000,000 in September.

For the 10 months ending with October exports were $6,632,000,000, compared with $6,499,000,000 in the same period last year.

DISCUSS EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 4.—City commissioners are considering an ordinance that would establish the basic eight-hour day for work done for or by the city. A public discussion will be held.

What's Become Of the "More-Production" Cry?

By PRESIDENT GOMPERS, IN AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

What has become of the propaganda for increased production and break-neck speed in industry that flooded the country less than two months ago? Is this propaganda enjoying a momentary ebb according to planned schedule, or has it been forgotten permanently? The world needs production—full-time production—as badly now as it needed it three months ago, or two months ago. While the propaganda was at its height labor pointed out the fact that employers were preventing full production and went into some detail to show that such was the case, lamentable as it was.

The proof of employers' insincerity was strong then. It is convincing today.

Today we read such headlines as these:

"Thousands of Idle Forcing Wages Down."

"Seventy-five Thousand Detroit Workmen Lose Factory Jobs."

"Increase Reported in Labor Stability."

"Labor stability" means that workmen are sticking closer to the jobs they have in the fear that they may not be able to replace those jobs if they quit.

It is but a few weeks since the American woolen mills and the Pennsylvania railroad created a sensation by laying off large numbers of men in the midst of the political campaign. Mill towns continue to report numbers of working people laid off.

We are confronted with industrial hypocrisy in a highly perfected degree.

The world needs production. The employers have been saying so for months. They began with the armistice and they continued until a few days ago. Now they have stopped saying so.

The reason is not that the world's needs have been satisfied. The reason is twofold: Inflation is coming out of the business structure and in that process employers see what they believe to be an opportunity to cut wages though there has been no inflation in wages. Secondly, the more unscrupulous employers believe that by laying off workmen with an announcement of curtailment necessities, the same or other workmen can be hired within a brief time at a sufficient wage reduction to make the temporary suspension justifiable from a profit point of view.

When inconvenience is caused temporarily by the workers in their effort to overcome obstinate and unjustifiable opposition in the struggle for human betterment, there usually is a public clamor and protest. When employers, for profit, adopt policies that strike at the very support of human life, where is the public clamor, where the high-minded protest?

Wheels of industry may be stopped for "business reasons" and the morals of society are not outraged. But when the wheels of industry stop because the workers have declined to contribute their services under conditions which they can not tolerate, society's moral code is affronted at once and the affront is given ready expression by a press not too well educated in the how of getting at industrial truth.

The long and short of these facts lead to the conclusion that the world needed production until recently because production was profitable, and that it no longer needs production because production is not at the moment as profitable as it was, or as it may be a little later.

The working people declare that the world needs production now as much as last month, or two months ago or a year ago, and that to interfere with the forces of production is a social crime which society will some day find a way of visiting with proper punishment.

CONTROL STRIKE VOTE INCORPORATE UNIONS

New York, Dec. 4.—The joint committee on coal for New York city believes that a solution of the coal shortage is incorporation of trade unions and make a strike vote a criminal offense unless it is supervised by public officials. The committee is composed of business men. It is suggested that there has been some profiteering by middlemen and brokers, but workers received the major portion of the blame for present conditions.

These business men make the usual attempt at fairness by classifying lockouts with strikes. They recommend:

"That state legislation be enacted for incorporation of labor unions and trade organizations and that strikes or lockouts, unless by a majority vote of the organizations, either labor unions or business, and taken by secret ballot under the supervision of local election officials, be declared felonies.

"That before such ballot be taken two weeks' proper legal notice be given the members of such organizations and the public generally."

It will be noticed that the business men make no reference to individual coal companies who are given a free hand to lock out their employes for any reason they see fit.

The committee was told by John F. Bermingham, president of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western coal company that the reason for high prices is because coal passes through the hands of several wholesalers before reaching the consumer, each wholesaler exacting a profit, though never having actual physical possession of the coal.

While the committee favored drastic action against the workers its attitude toward dealers was most considerate. It recommended that the Anthracite Producers' association "be requested" to direct its members to sell coal only to regularly established dealers or distributers.

PAYING THE FIDDLER.

New York, Dec. 4.—Manufacturers have lost $250,000,000 the last few months by retailers breaking their contracts, said H. F. Barker, of the national association of credit men. Mr. Barker is chairman of the association's committee on credit co-operation and credit methods. He said manufacturers were being paid back in their own coin.

"When the market was in the sellers' hands," he said, "questionable methods were frequently resorted to, which, in effect, are just as serious and deserving of condemnation as cancellations. Purchase agreements were often neglected when the commodities could be sold at higher prices. Not placing, therefore, the sole responsibility on the buyer when conditions were reversed, and the market came to his hands, yet there has resulted from the lack of good faith in the treatment of orders a damage to business which we have endeavored in a general way to estimate at $250,000,000."

WANT FEDERAL COAL LAW.

New York, Dec. 4.—"The promise of the coal owners to clean house has not been fulfilled," said United States Senator Calder, in again declaring that government supervision of the coal industry is necessary.

"I believe," he said, "the same conditions prevail today as three weeks ago when Senator Edge of New Jersey joined me in a statement advocating government control, unless the situation is remedied.

"The ousting of speculators by the coal owners only slightly betters conditions and there is no assurance but the speculators will be with us next year. The so-called efforts of the coal owners to reform themselves do not show promise of perseverance."

$2,632 A LIVING WAGE.

New York, Dec. 4.—A living wage should not be less than $2,632 a year, or $50.61 a week, declared officers of Printing Press Assistants and Feeders' union No. 23 in a wage hearing before an arbitration board. The estimates are based on official figures. The union supported its claim by a mass of price quotations which are summarized by the following necessary yearly expenditures for a family:

Food, $871.80; clothing, $529.96; rent, $437.35; light and heat, $68.59; household equipment, $69.23; miscellaneous, $655.75. Total, $2,632.68.

CARPENTERS GAIN.

Rockland, Me., Dec. 4.—As a result of organization carpenters have advanced wages 10 cents an hour.

Teague, Texas, Dec. 4.—The carpenters' rate of 87 1-2 cents an hour has been advanced to $1, following several conferences between employers and employed.

FROZEN EGGS FOR U. S.

Balboa Heights, Panama Canal Zone, Dec. 4.—The steamship Tuscan Star passed through the canal with a whole cargo of frozen eggs, amounting to 4,200 tons. She was bound from China to New York.

CAR MEN REDUCE HOURS.

Somerset, Ky., Dec. 4.—Motormen and conductors have reduced their work day from 12 to 8 hours.

WAGES BELOW LIVING COSTS

Boston, Dec. 4.—In a report issued by the Massachusetts department of labor and industries, this reference is made to living costs and the alleged "high" wages paid to workers:

COST OF LIVING

Index numbers derived by the Massachusetts commission on the necessaries of life showed that in June, 1920, the cost of living in Massachusetts, when based on corresponding prices in 1913, had increased 92.7 per cent.

WAGES

A comparison of the hourly rates of wages in 212 organized trades in the city of Boston at the close of June in 1914 with those at the close of June in 1920 shows that the average hourly rates in these trades increased 83.5 per cent during the six-year period.

LANDLORDS HOLD ALL.

Chicago, Dec. 4.—"Defeat all legislation that would regulate rents or raise taxes; fight the Flat Janitors' union's demand for higher wages," was the purpose of a mass meeting of landlords in this city. To obtain a fund it was voted to assess 200,000 property owners $1 on every flat they own—the minimum to be $1 and the maximum $50. Real estate agents were instructed to deduct the assessment from the rents they collect. If all property owners contribute it is estimated that the fund will total $1,000,000.

One young man suggested that the sympathy of the public could be enlisted if the meeting declared in favor of a reduction of rents. The speaker was stopped with cries of "No, no; we'll have to raise rents."

One property owner declared that rents could not be reduced within 30 months, and another speaker denounced the "bolshevist" attempt to "take" control of our property away from us and prevent us from realizing profits above a small fixed amount."

The meeting denounced officers of the Flat Janitors' union and agreed that no property owner should deal with the union, but refer these matters to the Chicago real estate board. This board is the property owners' union.

The janitors called on the employers' union and protested against a 24-hour work day and being compelled to live in basements. In rejecting demands for improved conditions, the janitors were told that they "are lucky to have a job."

INJUNCTION SET ASIDE.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The setting aside of an injunction by the United States supreme court, that was issued by the federal court for the southern district of Ohio on request of the Niles-Bement-Pond company, a New Jersey corporation, did not involve the principle of labor injunctions. The supreme court's action was based on technicalities.

The corporation asked the district court to enjoin the Niles Tool Works company of Hamilton, Ohio, one of its subsidaries, and Iron Molders' union No. 68 and other trade unionists because of a strike at the Hamilton plant. The New Jersey corporation claimed that the strike was interfering with contracts between it and the company.

The circuit court of appeals set the injunction aside on the ground that the interests of the company and the corporation were so nearly identical that the company should be a plaintiff and not a defendant. It was shown that the New Jersey corporation owned a controlling interest in the tool company and that the same men were president and vice president of both concerns.

The circuit court of appeals' decision was upheld by the supreme court.

"WE WILL NOT BEND."

New York, Dec. 4.—"We will not bend to feudalists" was the defi of striking fur workers at a mass meeting in this city. These wage earners have been on the streets for several months, and despite injunctions and every other force at the command of the anti-unionists the strikers are as determined as ever.

In addressing the meeting Congressman-elect Meyer London said:

"In their injunction the employers say that the union agreement is un-American. That is because their conception of Americanism is the American dollar.

The fur workers have been 24 weeks on strike and have thus sacrificed six months' wages for a principle. Is there one among the employers who is capable of a similar sacrifice?"

WILL PROBE BOMB CASE.

San Francisco, Dec. 4.—District Attorney Brady has issued a statement in which he says his office will go to the bottom of the charges that Tom Mooney was sent to prison in the preparedness bomb cases on perjured testimony.

The statement, signed by the district attorney and assistants, says:

"We cannot any longer permit the administration of the criminal laws in San Francisco to continue under the odium that has been heaped upon it."

REJECT I. AND R.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 4.—The state constitutional convention has rejected the initiative and referendum.

After every proposal to give the people a direct voice in government was defeated, friends of direct legislation declared that the convention "has beaten itself" and that the new constitution will not be accepted at the polls.

PLUMBERS ADVANCE.

Macon, Ga., Dec. 4.—Organized plumbers have secured the eight-hour day and raised wages $1 for the same period.

MUST ABIDE BY MAJORITY.

Chicago, Dec. 4.—Superior Court Judge Sullivan has refused to restrain officers of Street Car Men's union No. 241 from interfering with watchers at the union's election.

About 6 per cent of the union's membership signed the petition for an injunction, although many of the signers have since stated that they did not sign with the understanding that they were indorsing a plea for an injunction.

The court followed other decisions that courts cannot interfere with the internal workings of a union or other voluntary association.

Attorneys for the union insisted that the union has the right to regulate the manner of conducting elections, and that when individuals agree to abide by the decision of the majority on joining the union they are not entitled to injunction relief when they are in the minority.

Under the union's laws the ballots are counted in the presence of watchers, but the union has refused to permit watchers to be in the voting booth because of the large number of candidates for office and the possibility for ill feeling and inevitable electioneering. The union has a membership running into the thousands.

UNION TEACHERS WIN.

San Francisco, Dec. 4.—Organized teachers are jubilant over the adoption of charter amendment No. 37 at the recent election. The amendment reorganizes the school system by having the school board appointed by the mayor, the appointments to be confirmed at an election. The superintendent of schools will be appointed by the board. Under the old system the superintendent was not responsible to the board, and politics was rampant.

A company "union" of teachers assisted the politicians in fighting the amendment, which was also opposed by anti-trade union employers who feared the amendment would permit teachers to exercise their right to organize.

The amendment was given hearty support by the entire trade union movement, and educators from various sections of the state also assisted in the fight.

CIGAR MAKERS NOMINATE.

Chicago, Dec. 4.—Affiliates of the Cigar Makers' International union have nominated candidates for office at their referendum election. President Perkins was renominated by 342 locals. The second highest candidate received eight nominations and the third highest six nominations.

President Gompers, of the A. F. of L., was renominated for first vice president by 339 locals. The next highest candidate received eight nominations and the third highest three nominations.

These emphatic indorsements of trade unionism are significant in days of whoop-la economic "remedies."

WHOLESALE PRICES DROP.

New York, Dec. 4.—The claim that high prices are caused by "high" wages is shattered by the drop in wholesale prices, and the almost imperceptible decrease in cost to the consumer.

On November 27 of this year the wholesale price for No. 2 red wheat was $1.79 a bushel, as compared with $2.36½ for the same date last year. The price of No. 2 yellow corn was 94½ cents a bushel on November 27 of this year and $1.79¾ last year. Flour (Minnesota patent) was $9.50 this year, and $14.75 last year. Coffee, No. 7 Rio, 7¼ cents and 15 cents. Butter, cream, 92 score, 57 cents and 73½ cents. Print cloths, six-tenths of a cent and 12¾ cents.

BEGGARLY MINIMUM WAGE.

Austin, Texas, Dec. 4.—A weekly minimum wage of $12 for women and minors employed by telephone companies, laundries, factories and mercantile establishments is announced by the Texas industrial welfare commission. Employers may deduct 20 cents for each meal furnished these employes.

Opponents of this beggarly wage called attention to a survey by the board that the average living cost for women in this state is $13.40 a week.

CANAL TOLL, $3,831.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The average toll charged to ocean-going commercial ships through the Panama canal averaged $3,831.22, last October. During that month these ships averaged 7.7 per day through the canal.

RETAIL CLERKS ORGANIZE.

Rock Springs, Wyo., Dec. 4.—Retail clerks have organized and are chartered by the Retail Clerks' International Protective association.

SPEEDING-UP PLANS DOOMED IN INDUSTRY

Philadelphia, Dec. 4.—The old driver method of industrial management will no longer do, says Fred J. Miller, president of the American society of mechanical engineers, writing in the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

"Many of the industrial difficulties of the present day," he said, "are due to the resistance of workers everywhere to being forced back to their former inferior status. They are insisting that if they are good enough to place their lives at the disposal of civilization they are good enough to have at least some voice in determining the manner of life they shall lead in the civilization they have striven to preserve.

"In every country of the world the trend for years has been toward democracy; the absolutism, both in governments and industries, is perceived to be an anachronism.

"Constantly the line of demarcation is being more clearly drawn between those who render useful service in return for what they obtain of this world's goods, and those who do not. Many of the most profound students of this, our greatest problem, believe that the modern tendency of those who labor to plan for action in their common interest is, after all, the best protection society can have against worse things—evils which history shows have led almost inevitably to degeneration and social decay.

"It is not true that production has fallen off everywhere. There are establishments in America wherein production is now greater than before the war, and many of them in which it is as great. Investigation of the methods followed in these establishments will convince almost anyone that the driver method of industrial management is bound to disappear.

"We must get away from the industrial ideas that have been handed down to us from slavery, and one or another form of industrial co-operation must take their place."

TROOPS IN MINE ZONE.

Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 4.—Civil war continues in the mine strike zone of this state and federal troops are again in control at the request of Governor Cornwall.

The state executive has permitted these sections of West Virginia to be ruled by mine guards and Baldwin-Feltz detectives.

Strikers, their wives and children are housed in tents furnished by the United Mine Workers. Martial law has been declared by the soldiers and all public meetings of the strikers have been prohibited.

Every legal and moral guarantee to workers has been set aside in the mine owners campaign to crush the Miners' union and drive these workers back to work as individuals.

STRANGE BRITISH STRIKE.

London, England, Dec. 4.—"It is very difficult to believe," says the British Citizen, "that at the present moment there is a strike in progress for the principle of collective bargaining and trade union recognition. But such is the fact. The strike is that of the Guild of Insurance Officials against the General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, ltd., and the object is to secure the right of the 'black-coated worker' to belong to his trade union.

"At this stage one is tempted to rub one's eyes to see that one is really awake and in the twentieth century rather than in the period before the flood.

"As antiquarians they may be interesting, but these officials must realize that antiquarian questions are best left to the realm of the academic. Their attitude is at least a half a century out of date, to put it very gently."

ANOTHER SUIT FILED.

New Orleans, Dec. 4.—George Williams, an aged negro, has filed suit in the local federal court for $50,000 damages against the Great Southern Lumber company, whose mills at Bogalusa were struck last year. In his petition Williams charges that officers of the company conspired with certain "gunmen, killers and thugs" to terrorize strikers. He was assaulted when he refused to obey their orders and return to work.

This suit follows similar action by the wives of trade unionists who were killed by thugs, and by Sol Dacus, a negro clergyman, who was chased out of Bogalusa because he was friendly to the cause of organized labor.

HUGE OIL DIVIDENDS.

New York, Dec. 4.—This year Standard Oil has paid dividends of $115,220,720, a new high record. In the nine years from 1912 to 1920 inclusive, total cash payments to stockholders total $887,725,565. It is claimed that the present market value of stock dividends increases this amount to more than $1,500,000,000.

UNIONS HOLD WAGES.

Chicago, Dec. 4.—"We offer no defiance when we say we do not thank the captains of industry one bit for not attempting wage reductions, but we do thank organized labor," writes Editor Sweeney of the Tailor, official magazine of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America.

"KIDDING OURSELVES" SAYS BUSINESS PAPER

Chicago, Dec. 4.—The American Contractor calls on business men to drop the cry of "government interference with business."

"Why not quit kidding ourselves?" asks this publication, which declares that "government interference with business is a very much overworked phrase and the inconsistency of some of those who make use of it would be ridiculous if general business conditions were less grave.

"The organized business of the country always favored government interference in business when that interference placed the people's money, taken through taxation, at the disposal of the business interests.

"If the government can interfere with business and hand the railroads $600,000,000, and interfere with business to the extent of placing a billion dollars at the disposal of exporters when exporting is a real embarrassment to the nation, how silly and how selfish it is for business interests to come forward with the cry of 'government interference' when the government attempts something in the interest of the average man and woman.

"When it is suggested that the federal postal savings bank should pay depositors 3 or 4 per cent and lend the money accumulated in these banks to home builders at 5 per cent what a howl against 'government interference in business!'

"The farmers and the cotton growers are real angry because the government refuses to interfere in business to the extent of taking care of both, and yet the farmer and the cotton grower is such a conservative individual, so thoroughly converted to 'private initiative' that if it were proposed to place the government in control of the coal industry and deprive the robber barons of America of their power to exploit and profiteer, they would turn down the proposition cold.

"We are a wonderful people! We are a lot of other things, too, but we don't believe in government interference with business except when we can make something at the government's expense."

WANT BOOKS OPENED.

New York, Dec. 4.—Paper Handlers' union No. 1 suggested to the arbitration board that is considering its wage demands that the books of commercial shop employers be opened.

The employers' representatives on the board did not object to the plan if it included all employers rather than be confined, as the workers proposed, to employers doing a business of $100,000 a year.

The employers stated that their national organization recently completed a survey of nearly 800 printing plants in this city at a cost of $20,000. The work required three months with a staff of 20 accountants. The report showed that the printing industry is highly competitive and is 40 per cent overequipped. The overequipment is necessary, it was explained, because of the requirements of the patrons for work on short notice. The employers informed the arbitration board that it could have access to the original data obtained by the accountants in that survey, which, they said, while not complete, was better than the partial survey proposed by the union.

'RAH FOR "DEMOCRACY."

Danville, Va., Dec. 4.—"The supreme test of democracy" is the way one feverish press agent refers to the company "union" of the Riverside and Dan river cotton corporation.

This "union" is organized along lines similar to the federal government. The house has 154 members, elected by the wage earners. The senate has 34 members, who are appointed. They are overseers and foremen. The cabinet, which has the power to veto any action by the house and senate, is composed of six officials of the company, headed by President Fitzgerald.

Under this system the workers may instruct their representatives in the house to take certain action. The measure must then run the gauntlet of small bosses in the senate and, if successful, then receive the approval of the company officials.

WHY FARMERS COMPLAIN.

New York, Dec. 4.—"With hogs bringing only $10 a hundredweight at the Chicago stock yards, where in July last year the quotation was $23.60, and with wheat and flour at less than one-half the prices commanded before the decline began, the American farmer has a grievance which he naturally voices," says the New York World.

"These sharp reductions in basic food values ought to be reflexed in the commodity markets everywhere but they are not. Most of the things that the farmer buys are presented to him at war-time prices.

"The farmer is justified in his complaints and should be heard. At the other end of the scale is the consumer, more submissive, but equally a victim. The middleman will not yield wisely if he yields too late."

BUT THEY HAVE NO VOICE.

New York, Dec. 4.—The sophistry of anti-unionists is shown in this statement by the Wall Street Journal:

"E. H. Gary estimates 85 per cent of American labor is unorganized, which is no small voice for an open shop."

While the editor thus acknowledges that an unorganized shop and an "open shop" is the same thing, he would create the impression that these unorganized are demanding that they be left in their defenseless state, when, in truth, the E. H. Garys demand this condition.

Naturally, the Wall Street Journal echoes "Here too."

EFFICIENCY IS LACKING.

Philadelphia, Dec. 4.—A financial writer in a local paper says engineers generally consider the present methods of refining sugar "the most inefficient and wasteful of our industrial processes."

These conditions are rarely discussed by those whose efficiency ideals consist of driving workers at top speed and having them close their work day in an exhausted condition.

RAILWAY CLERKS IN LINE.

Springfield, Mo., Dec. 4.—Railway clerks have formed a local.

BATTERING-RAM PLAN CONDEMNED BY MINER

London, England, Dec. 4.—Vernon Hartshorn, South Wales executive of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, has resigned rather than submit to "dictatorship by revolutionaries" in the federation. He says it is impossible to carry out any constructive work in the mining industry in the atmosphere of hostility and suspicion which has been created against trade union officials who believe in steady, evolutionary reform.

He has stepped out of official life, he says, so that he can fight for a sane policy with a free hand. The battering-ram, direct action method of these revolutionaries, who talk of "creating new systems," is declared by Hartshorn to be crude and disastrous, both for the workers and the rest of the community.

"When the state takes over the mines," he said, "I hope it will take over a concern which is a sound national asset, and not a bankrupt affair.

"It is all very well for the revolutionaries in the coal fields to say that the social system which will follow will be a better one. They have not thought out the immensity of the problem with which they propose to deal so crudely.

"They shut their eyes to the fact that such social and economic organization as we now possess has taken centuries to build up even to its present far from perfect stage. So far the human race, with all its long line of scientists and inventors and reformers and democratic movements, has failed to give us the social system which we need, and which will be brought into being as time goes by, but the efforts of the past have at least given us a system which is far removed from anarchy and universal starvation, which is better than no system at all and which contains within itself the beginnings of the new social system at which the labor movement aims.

"Can any sane workman believe that what all that was best in human nature failed to accomplish in many centuries of social effort, a body of wild direct actionists in South Wales are trying to build up in a day or a week or a year out of the complete ruin of the system which they are trying to smash?

"These revolutionaries would be as helpless amidst the social catastrophe they had created as a flock of geese in a gale."

INDUSTRY MAY PAY COST.

East Liverpool, Ohio, Dec. 4.—Will the cost of financing sick and disability benefits and old age pensions for pottery workers be a charge on this industry?

A joint meeting was held in this city between representatives of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters and the United States Potters' association, when the above was agreed to. Previously both parties agreed to a graduated system of benefits, according to wages drawn and dues paid. This plan has been abandoned and it is now proposed to place every individual in the industry on an equal footing, or substantially so, without regard to the amount of wages drawn.

The proposal as it now stands is that each plant in the industry pay sick benefits of $7.50 a week together with all doctors' bills and hospital charges, without expense to the individual. The National Brotherhood of Operative Potters will supplement this amount with an additional $2.50 a week. This would give brotherhood members $10 a week benefit and non-members $7.50.

Speaking for the employers, W. E. Wells said the industry should care for its worn-out employes, where it was evident that the industry was responsible for their physical decline, even if the period of employment did not exceed 10 years. The proposed insurance program provides that an employe must be 60 years old and have been connected with the industry for 20 years to receive pension benefits.

EFFECTS FOLLOW CAUSE.

Chicago, Dec. 4.—"Bombs are not created from speeches, but from conditions," says President Perkins of the Cigar Makers' International union, writing in the official journal of that organization.

"The most rabid red orator could never arouse passions to the degree of bombing unless conditions in the mine, furnace or sweatshop were such as to prepare the soil for his sowing.

"Inhumanity begets inhumanity. The treatment received by the worker reflects his attitude toward society as a whole. Make it a hell on earth and we may expect violence in return.

"Democracy in government will not suffice to curb the passions of men. We must have justice in industry as well in order to maintain the hoped for balance and insure domestic tranquility."

RESIST NON-UNION SHOP.

Cincinnati, Dec. 4.—Trade unionists in this city are preparing to resist the announced purpose of certain employers to establish non-unionism in this city. At a meeting of more than 500 representatives of local trade unions it was decided to conduct a vigorous campaign in defense of the right to organize. It was recommended that an assessment of 25 cents be levied on every trade unionist to finance this educational movement.

The antis have resorted to the usual method of waving the flag to conceal their cheap-wage and individual bargaining plan.

FAILS TO PUNISH THUGS.

Denver, Dec. 4.—Paul J. McGovern, deputy district attorney, has resigned. He announced in the public press that one of his reasons was the failure of the district attorney to prosecute imported strikebreakers who rioted in the city during the recent street car strike. Mr. McGovern makes bitter complaint against the district attorney for permitting the murder gang to escape.

Several persons were killed and scores were injured but no indictments have been issued.

FAKE TUBERCULOSIS CURES.

Philadelphia, Dec. 4.—It is stated that $200,000 is annually spent in this city for fake tuberculosis cures. This money is thrown away on patent medicines, vapor stoves and other bogus remedies.

BRICK WORKERS GAIN.

Fort Dodge, Iowa, Dec. [illegible] number of brick and clay [illegible] have secured wage increases [illegible] range from 60 cents to $1.50 a [illegible]